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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : ABE et al.

Serial No. : 09/989,068

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98**

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 18, 2002

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted, on information and belief, before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (503.40884X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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